

(4) providing recognition for skilled American volunteers and the organizations employing them;

(5) helping nonprofit organizations and corporations in the United States to identify resources and opportunities in international volunteer service utilizing skilled Americans;

(6) encouraging the establishment of international volunteer programs for employees of United States corporations; and

(7) encouraging international voluntary service by highly skilled Americans to promote health and prosperity throughout the world.

(b) **VFP PROGRAM OBJECTIVES.**—The objectives of the VFP Program shall be to—

(1) eliminate extreme poverty;

(2) reduce world hunger and malnutrition;

(3) increase access to safe potable water;

(4) enact universal education;

(5) reduce child mortality and childhood diseases;

(6) combat the spread of preventable diseases, including HIV, malaria, and tuberculosis;

(7) provide educational and work skill support for girls and empowering women to achieve independence;

(8) create sustainable business and entrepreneurial opportunities; and

(9) increase access to information technology.

(c) **VOLUNTEERS FOR PROSPERITY SERVICE INCENTIVE PROGRAM.**—The VFP Office may provide fixed amount stipends to offset the travel and living costs of volunteering abroad to any individual who—

(1) has skills relevant to addressing any objective described in subsection (b); and

(2) provides a dollar-for-dollar match for such stipend—

(A) through the organization with which the individual is serving; or

(B) by raising private funds.

(d) **FUNDING.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary of State, in consultation with the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development, shall make available the amounts appropriated pursuant to section 204 to the VFP Office to pursue the objectives described in subsection (b) by carrying out the functions described in subsection (a).

(2) **USE OF FUNDS.**—Amounts made available under paragraph (1) may be used by the VFP Office to provide personnel and other resources to develop, manage, and expand the VFP Program, under the supervision of the United States Agency for International Development.

(e) **COORDINATION.**—The VFP Office shall coordinate its efforts with other public and private efforts that aim to send skilled professionals to serve in developing nations.

(f) **REPORT.**—The VFP Office shall submit an annual report to Congress on the activities of the VFP Office.

#### SEC. 204. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this title \$10,000,000 for each of the fiscal years 2009 through 2013.

(b) **ALLOCATION OF FUNDS.**—Of the amounts appropriated pursuant to subsection (a)—

(1) 90 percent shall be expended to expand VFP Serve; and

(2) 10 percent shall be expended to manage the VFP Program.

#### SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

#### SENATE RESOLUTION 657—DESIGNATING SEPTEMBER 13, 2008, AS “NATIONAL CELIAC DISEASE AWARENESS DAY”

Mr. NELSON of Nebraska (for himself and Mr. INHOFE) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

S. RES. 657

Whereas celiac disease affects approximately 1 in every 130 people in the United States, for a total of 3,000,000 people;

Whereas the majority of people with celiac disease have yet to be diagnosed;

Whereas celiac disease is a chronic inflammatory disorder that is classified as both an autoimmune condition and a genetic condition;

Whereas celiac disease causes damage to the lining of the small intestine, which results in overall malnutrition;

Whereas, when a person with celiac disease consumes foods that contain certain protein fractions, that person suffers a cell-mediated immune response that damages the villi of the small intestine, interfering with the absorption of nutrients in food and the effectiveness of medications;

Whereas those problematic protein fractions are found in wheat, barley, rye, and oats, which are used to produce many foods, medications, and vitamins;

Whereas, because celiac disease is a genetic disease, there is an increased incidence of celiac disease in families with a known history of celiac disease;

Whereas celiac disease is underdiagnosed because the symptoms can be attributed to other conditions and are easily overlooked by doctors and patients;

Whereas, as recently as 2000, the average person with celiac disease waited 11 years for a correct diagnosis;

Whereas  $\frac{1}{2}$  of all people with celiac disease do not show symptoms of the disease;

Whereas celiac disease is diagnosed by tests that measure the blood for abnormally high levels of the antibodies of immunoglobulin A, anti-tissue transglutaminase, and IgA anti-endomysium antibodies;

Whereas celiac disease can be treated only by implementing a diet free of wheat, barley, rye, and oats, often called a “gluten-free diet”;

Whereas a delay in the diagnosis of celiac disease can result in damage to the small intestine, which leads to an increased risk of malnutrition, anemia, lymphoma, adenocarcinoma, osteoporosis, miscarriage, congenital malformation, short stature, and disorders of the skin and other organs;

Whereas celiac disease is linked to many autoimmune disorders, including thyroid disease, systemic lupus erythematosus, type 1 diabetes, liver disease, collagen vascular disease, rheumatoid arthritis, and Sjogren's syndrome;

Whereas the connection between celiac disease and diet was first established by Dr. Samuel Gee, who wrote, “if the patient can be cured at all, it must be by means of diet”;

Whereas Dr. Samuel Gee was born on September 13, 1839; and

Whereas, by designating September 13, 2008, as National Celiac Disease Awareness Day, the Senate can raise awareness of celiac disease in the general public and the medical community; Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) designates September 13, 2008, as “National Celiac Disease Awareness Day”;

(2) recognizes that all people in the United States should become more informed and aware of celiac disease;

(3) calls upon the people of the United States to observe the date with appropriate ceremonies and activities; and

(4) respectfully requests the Secretary of the Senate to transmit a copy of this resolution to the Celiac Sprue Association, the American Celiac Society, the Celiac Disease Foundation, the Gluten Intolerance Group of North America, and the Oklahoma Celiac Support Group No. 5 of the Celiac Sprue Association.

#### SENATE RESOLUTION 658—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE THAT THE FORMER CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICERS OF FANNIE MAE SHOULD NOT RECEIVE LAVISH SEVERANCE PACKAGES AT TAXPAYER EXPENSE

Mr. NELSON of Nebraska submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs:

S. RES. 658

Whereas, on September 7, 2008 the Federal National Mortgage Association (Fannie Mae) and the Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation (Freddie Mac) were placed into conservatorship by the Federal Housing Finance Agency;

Whereas the Department of the Treasury has announced that up to \$200,000,000,000 of tax dollars will be invested in senior preferred stock of Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, with billions more lent to the companies via the Government Sponsored Entity Credit Facility, and invested in mortgage backed securities issued by the companies;

Whereas the Federal Housing Finance Agency, as conservator, has all the rights, titles, powers, and privileges of the companies and of any stockholder, officer, or director of the companies, and has been charged with the duty to operate the companies;

Whereas media reports indicate that the former chief executive officers of Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac may be paid severance packages worth a combined \$24,000,000 in pay, bonuses, and benefits;

Whereas these chief executive officers presided over Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac in the time that led to a taxpayer-funded rescue and Federal takeover, and should not be rewarded; and

Whereas the conservator of Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac has a duty both to the stability of the financial markets, and to the best interest of the American taxpayer, whose dollars are being invested in the companies; Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That it is the sense of the Senate that—

(1) the former chief executive officers who presided over the Federal National Mortgage Association (Fannie Mae) and the Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation (Freddie Mac) during the period that led to a Federal takeover should not be rewarded with lavish severance packages paid for by American taxpayers; and

(2) the severance packages of both former chief executive officers should be carefully examined and eliminated or reduced to an appropriate level.

#### AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 5498. Mr. NELSON, of Florida submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 3001, to authorize